

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 BNDE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-12 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-15 AID-20 HEW-08 DODE-00 L-03 RSR-01

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R 301003 APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2751

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 6732

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS SNAR TH

SUBJECT: GEN. PRACHUAB'S COMMENTS RE THAI DRUG ADDICTION

1. THE FOLLOWING TRANSMITS USIS TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE PRACHUAB UNTRANGKUN ON APRIL 19, 1973. PRACHUAB, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NEWLY-FORMED NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, DISCUSSES THE DRUG SITUATION AMONG THAI YOUTHS AND POINTS TO A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO EASE THE SITUATION. THIS IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF THE GROWING CONCERN WITHIN THE THAI GOVERNMENT OVER THE INCREASED USE OF DRUGS BY THAI YOUTH, PARTICULARLY HEROIN, WHICH HAS CAUSED THE THAI LEADERSHIP INCREASINGLY TO VIEW THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM AS A THAI PROBLEM AND NOT ONLY AN AMERICAN ONE.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

REPORTERS: HAS A MEETING OF YOUR NEW COMMITTEE BEEN HELD?

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PRACHUAB: THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER HAS STARTED WORK. AN OFFICE IS BEING SET UP FOR PERFORMANCE OF WORK IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR THE FIRST PROJECT, A PROJECT TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE METROPOLITAN POLICE TO PREVENT SUPPRESS, AND GIVE AID TO JUVENILES OR TEENAGERS WHO HAVE BECOME DRUG ADDICTS. THIS IS A NEW PROJECT WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO CARRY

OUT BOTH IN THE CAPITAL CITY AND IN THE PROVINCES, BUT IT WILL BE ESPECIALLY CONCENTRATED ON IN BANGKOK AND IN THONBURI. IT IS A PROJECT IN WHICH THERE WILL BE COOPERATION WITH PARENTS AND GUARDIANS AND WITH VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

REPORTER: WILL A CENTER BE SET UP?

PRACHUAB: NOT A CENTER. A PLAN OR A PROJECT WILL BE DRAFTED.

REPORTER: WHAT MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO CURE JUVENILES, ESPECIALLY GIRLS, WHO ARE DRUG ADDICTS?

PRACHUAB: THAT IS PART OF THE PLAN. IN REGARD TO CHILDREN AND ILLICIT NARCOTICS, WE ARE SEARCHING FOR THE WANTED MAN WHO HAS FLED TO AND IS HIDING IN THE PROVINCES. ISN'T IT TOI DARLING YOU MEAN?

REPORTER: YES, SIR.

PRACHUAB: WE ARE HUNTING FOR HIM. THESE CHILDREN WHO WERE COMPELLED OR INTIMIDATED INTO BECOMING DRUG ADDICTS MIGHT HAVE BECOME ADDICTED WHILE ROAMING ABOUT IN SEARCH OF PLEASURE. THERE MIGHT

BE OTHER GANGS ALSO, THEREFORE WE HAVE TO CONTINUE SEARCHING FOR THEM IN THE METROPOLIS. AT PRESENT WE ARE CARRYING ON INVESTIGATIONS TO ASCERTAIN THE SOURCE OF THE ILLICIT NARCOTICS USED. WE KNOW THE SOURCE NOW BUT IT CANNOT BE DISCLOSED YET.

REPORTER: WHERE WILL JUVENILES WHO ARE DRUG ADDICTS BE SENT FOR MEDICAL CARE AND IN ORDER TO CURE THEM?

PRACHUAB: ANY ACTION TAKEN WILL HAVE TO BE WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COOPERATION OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS, OR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS WILL HAVE TO BE APPEALED TO TAKE CHILDREN WHO ARE ADDICTS FOR MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT. THE MAIN POLICY OF THE POLICE IS NOT TO DAMAGE THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN, THEREFORE WE WILL NOT DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF ANY CHILD OR JUVENILE.

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT THE SOURCE OF AND PLACES WHERE ILLICIT NARCOTICS ARE SOLD?

PRACHUAB: WE ARE CARRYING ON INVESTIGATIONS AND WE WILL ROUND THEM UP.

REPORTER: AREN'T THERE SOME CHEMICALS WE IMPORT FOR PRODUCTION OF VINEGAR THAT CAN BE USED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS?

PRACHUAB: I THINK YOU HAD BETTER GO AND ASK THE MINISTRY

OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR INFORMATION ON THAT CHEMICAL I BELIEVE YOU ARE TAKING ABOUT. ONLY ABOUT 4-5 KILOS OF THAT CHEMICAL WERE IMPORTED LAST YEAR.

REPORTER: ISN' T IT HYDRO CHLORATE QUINONE?

PRACHUAB: SO FAR AS I KNOW THAT CANNOT BE USED FOR PRODUCTION OF HEROIN. YOU HAD BETTER GO AND ASK THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH. WE WILL HAVE TO CONTACT IT FOR INFORMATION ALSO. SHOULD THERE BE ANY CHEMICALS THAT CAN BE USED FOR PRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS WE WILL HAVE TO REQUEST IT TO ISSUE AN ANNOUNCEMENT BANNING THEIR IMPORT. I REALLY DO NOT KNOW WHAT CAN BE USED FOR PRODUCTION OF HEROIN..

REPORTER: IT IS REPORTED THAT VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES HAVE SET UP ANTI NARCOTICS GROUPS.

PRACHUAB: I HAVE HEARD THAT REPORT ALSO. UNDER THE PROJECT I INFORMED YOU OF JUST NOW WE WILL CONTACT VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS UNIVERSITIES. WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT THERE IS AN ANTI- NARCOTICS ASSOCIATION IN THAILAND ALREADY AND WHICH WE WILL COOPERATE WITH. I THINK THAT KHUN PETHAI UNCLASSIFIED

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IS ITS PRESIDENT, ISN' T HE?

REPORTER: I HAVE HEARD THAT THE PERMIT FOR IT TO BE ESTABLISHED AS AN ASSOCIATION HAS NOT BEEN SIGNED YET.

PRACHUAB: IT HAS BEEN SIGNED ALREADY AND IT HAS SET UP A BRANCH SOMEWHERE ALREADY. IT IS NOW APPLYING FOR PERMISSION TO SET UP ANOTHER BRANCH IN PAKNAM. WE ARE GLAD AND WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH EVERYBODY, ESPECIALLY WITH PARENTS. FOR CHILDREN WE FEEL CONCERN FOR. IF FACTS AND THE TRUTH ARE KNOWN IT WILL BE SEEN THAT SUCH CHILDREN LACK SUFFICIENT THOUGHT THAT THEY WANT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME ONLY.

REPORTER: IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU WISH VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS TO COVER COOPERATION?

PRACHOAB: WE NEED AND WILL REQUEST FOR THEIR COOPERATION SUCH AS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING CHILDREN IN THEM, WHETHER THERE ARE ANY WHO ARE ADDICTED TO NARCOTICS OF ANY KIND, ETC. IT IS A PLAN FOR COOPERATION IN FULL DETAIL, INCLUDING HOW TO PREVENT CHILDREN FROM BECOMING ADDICTED TO NARCOTICS.

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ACTION EA-14

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R 301003 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2764

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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REPORTER: I FEEL THERE ARE NOT SUFFICIENT MEASURES IN REGARD TO PROVIDING MEDICAL TREATMENT.

PRACUAB: I AM APPROACHING AND CONTACTING VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS SUCH AS THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLICIT NARCOTICS, SUCH AS IN THE FORM OF FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOSPITALS, FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF MEDICAL TREATMENT PROVIDED IN HOSPITALS WHERE IT IS PROVIDED ALREADY, SUCH AS THE THANYARAKS HOSPITAL, OR THE PHYA THAI HOSPITAL. I DON'T KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT RESULTS WOULD BE OBTAINED IF WE HAD SUFFICIENT MONEY FOR USE AND GOOD EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE MEDICAL TREATMENT BOTH OPENLY AND SECRETLY SUCH AS IN CASES WHERE PARENTS DO NOT WANT OTHER PERSONS TO KNOW THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE BEING TREATED FOR DRUG ADDICTION.

REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT DOCTORS HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO KEEP PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS AGAINST THEIR WILL, SO THEY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO LET THEM RUN AWAY.

PRACHUAB: THAT'S TRUE. I AM TRYING TO REMEDY THIS PROBLEM, OR UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR A UNIT IN THE POLICE HOSPITAL TO BE IN CHARGE OF PROVIDING MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LOOKING AFTER PERSONS ARRESTED AS DRUG ADDICTS. WE ARE TAKING MANY ACTIONS STEADILY BUT GRADUALLY.

REPORTER: BIG PRODUCERS OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS ARE A MAJOR PROBLEM. IN OTHER WORDS, DRUG ADDICTS ARE APT TO PERSUADE THEIR FRIENDS TO BECOME ADDICTS ALSO, THUS PROVIDING PRODUCERS WITH MORE CUSTOMERS STEADILY.

PRACHUAB: THAT IS A MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM BUT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT
TO CATCH BIG PRODUCERS RED- HANDED,
BECAUSE THEY HAVE " CUT OUTS" THUS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR BEING
ABLE TO ARREST ONLY VERY MINOR MEMBERS OF GANGS.

REPORTER: LIKE THE PERSONS ARRESTED IN BANGKOK?

PRACHUAB: YES. THE LEADER OF THAT GANG IS IN HIDING SOMEWHERE
THAT IS KEPT A TOP SECRET.

REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT THEREARE DRUG TRAFFICKERS
IN THE SUAN MAILI AREA ALSO.

PRACHUAB: WRITE UP AND PUBLISH ALL REPORRTS OR IN-
FORMATION YOU HEAR OF. END TEXT.
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